meet even domestic requirements. However, exporters are entitled to import raw materials, intermediates and components under the Advance Licence Scheme on a duty-free basis for production of the items for export. Materials imported under Advance Licences are not transferable and the licences are issued with a specific condition of positive value addition.

The details of various raw materials imported and finished products exported are contained in the "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Volume-I (Exports) and Volume-II (Imports)-Annual Number" published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the Library of the Parliament.

Services for foreign investment

1490. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as agreed at the Doha meeting of the World Trade Organisation India has freed seven lucrative services including IT for foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have requested for reciprocal action from its key trading partners;

(d) if so, the details of the trading partners and the reciprocal action taken by them; and

(e) how far this has shelped to promote India's interest in liberalization of movement of IT professionals across the borders and helping Indian companies to sell their services abroad electronically and increasing Indian commercial presence abroad by opening more branches and subsidiaries abroad, especially in respect of US, EU and South East Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India has not made any commitments in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on Trade in Services after the Doha Ministerial Conference. The commitments made by India at the WTO under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) are only the ones undertaken at the end of the Uruguay Round of negotiations in 1995. These commitments include foreign investment in certain Service sub-sectors, including Computer related Services, at a level lesser than the autonomously liberalised FDI levels.

(c) to (e) India is actively participating in the ongoing negotiations for liberalisation of Trade in Services in the WTO with the objective of enhancing access for our Service Providers and Professionals in markets abroad, particularly through Mode 1 (Cross Border Supply) and Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons). India has also submitted Initial Requests to our key trading partners in some Service sectors of interest, including in Computer related Services, requesting them to take full sectoral commitments and remove limitations and barriers experienced by the respective Service sector in their markets inorder to get meaningful access to our Servicee providers and Professionals. In addition, India is engaged in active discussions for reaching a broad consensus among the member countries towards working out a common approach to be followed for liberalisation of Movement of Natural Persons, which is an area of utmost importance to us. Commitments taken by WTO member countries under GATS have generated enabling conditions facilitating continued high rate of growth of India's computer software exports, which has necessitated movement of professionals as well as opening up of India's commercial presence by way of setting up of branches/subsidiaries overseas, including in US, EU and South East Asian countries. Under the mandated negotiations, though some countries have tabled their initial Offers, it is difficult to gauge the extent to which our requests have been accommodated in view of the fact that the process of submission of initial Offers and negotiations between countries on that basis is continuing as an ongoing process in the WTO. As such, the actual impact of these Offers and negotiations on the export of Indian services cannot be judged at this juncture.